

Workforce News

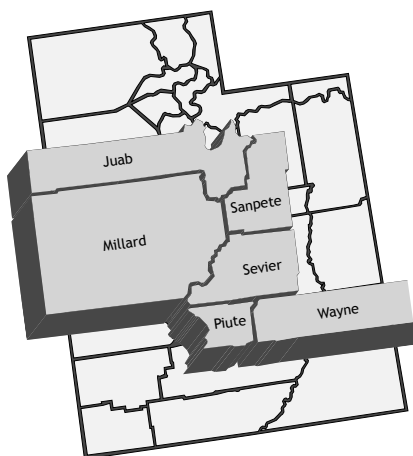
June 2006

A publication of the Department of Workforce Services



Central: Juab, Piute, Millard, Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne

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Migrating Numbers



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Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

Lecia Parks Langston
435-688-3115
lecialangston@utah.gov

It doesn't matter what you call them—illegal aliens, undocumented workers, unauthorized migrants—the immigrant “situation” has certainly taken its place in the forefront of media coverage. You might be wondering just how many undocumented aliens live in your particular area. That's a good question. . .and one that is not easily answered.

It's Not Easy. . .

Let's be honest. Just counting people is difficult. Think of the fuss every decade when Census head counts are compiled. Local areas are always disputing their particular figure. And, when it comes to numbering people who don't want to be counted because of their “unauthorized” status, the problem multiplies.

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More information available online!

<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=61>

Migrating Numbers

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That's why there are so many illegal alien "counts" for the U.S. floating about. Seven million, 9 million, 12 million—which number is correct? Well, in my "unauthorized" status as the "data police," I can tell you that we just don't know. Sometimes Big Brother really isn't watching you.

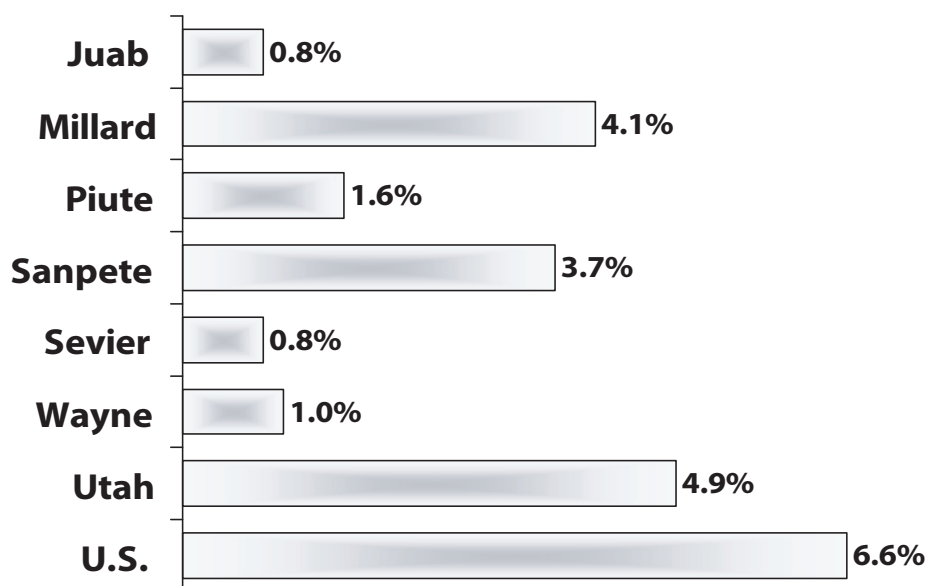
Recent Figures

Some of the most recent estimates of illegal aliens come from the Pew Hispanic Center. This nonprofit group's analysts used data from the Current Population Survey (the source of national/state unemployment rates) to make a U.S. estimate of 11 million unauthorized migrants in 2005. They also estimate that between 75,000 and 100,000 undocumented aliens make their home in Utah.

Using the Census

What about your county? Believe it or not, the decennial census is a fairly decent way to count noncitizens—although not necessarily their "legal" or "illegal" status. This is due to extraordinary measures census takers make to count everyone. Don't fill out your census form, and census takers are likely to show up on your door step. In 2000, roughly 5 percent of Utah's

2000 Noncitizens as a Share of Total Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

population weren't citizens. And, the Pew Hispanic Center estimates that nearly half of the noncitizen group are "unauthorized." On the other hand, this nonprofit group also estimates that 40 percent of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. have entered the country just since 2000.

In the center of the state, all six counties showed noncitizen shares below the state average in 2000. Millard and Sanpete counties showed the highest shares of noncitizens at roughly 4 percent each. Piute County took the middle ground with about 2 percent in the noncitizen group. The remaining three counties—Juab, Sevier, and Wayne—revealed noncitizen shares of less than 1 percent.

Check it Out

Are you looking for economic information about your county? Be sure and check out our new county profile webpages for the information you need!

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do>

County News

Juab County: Juab County's employment growth backed off its red-hot pace, but remained strong with a 7-percent year-to-year gain in December 2005. Once again, construction, manufacturing, and healthcare/social services proved the county's primary movers and shakers. With this continued rapid employment expansion, the county's jobless rate dropped to only 3.5 percent in March 2006. Construction continues to improve with a first quarter 2006 increase in permitted values of 14 percent—all on the nonresidential side of the fence. On the other hand, gross taxable sales took a double-digit tumble during the final quarter of 2005.

Millard County: Millard County's labor market continued to struggle to produce new jobs. At year-end, employment was up barely 2 percent. Nevertheless the county's unemployment rate had slipped to only 3.2 percent in March 2006—perhaps a signal that employment will show stronger expansion when 2006 job-growth figures become available. In addition, the county's sales figures increased by almost 10 percent in the final quarter of 2005. Nevertheless, first quarter 2006 construction permit values are down almost 70 percent when compared first quarter 2005.

Piute County: Piute County's jobs rose out of the job-loss abyss by year end to post a small 1.7 percent gain. But the employment expansion glory days appear to be over for the time being. In addition, the bloom is currently off the sales-growth rose. Sales dropped 9 percent between the final quarters of 2004 and 2005. However, joblessness remains low—only 3.7 percent in March 2006.

Sanpete County: Sanpete County's job growth inched up into moderate territory by the end of 2005—roughly 3.5 percent. Accordingly, Sanpete County's unemployment has dropped to the lowest level in years—only 3.1 percent in March 2006. Construction absolutely boomed in the county with first quarter 2006 permitted values up a whopping 81 percent from the same time period a year earlier. In addition, sales made a healthy 11-percent gain in the final three months of 2005.

Sevier County: Sevier County's employment situation improved markedly by year-end. Jobs were up more than 3 percent as retail trade and hospitality services improved. And, as with most of its neighbors, joblessness dropped dramatically—to only 3.3 percent. "Labor shortage" seems to be the cry from many employers. And, the cry may get louder. In the first quarter of 2006, the value of construction permits more than tripled the year-ago values. In addition, fourth-quarter sales rose a healthy 13 percent.

Wayne County: Wayne County kept along the job-loss path in the final month of 2005 with leisure/hospitality services taking the brunt of the 2-percent year-to-year loss. Still joblessness is down to 4.6 percent—lower than the national average, but considerably higher than its neighbors. Construction seems unlikely to jump-start job growth. In the first quarter of 2006, construction permit values are down by one-third. Is there any good news? Yes, gross taxable sales were up 17 percent between the fourth quarters of 2004 and 2005.

What's Up?

✧ Utah Power has fired up the second stage of the Current Creek \$345 million natural-gas-fired facility in Juab-County. *Salt Lake Tribune*

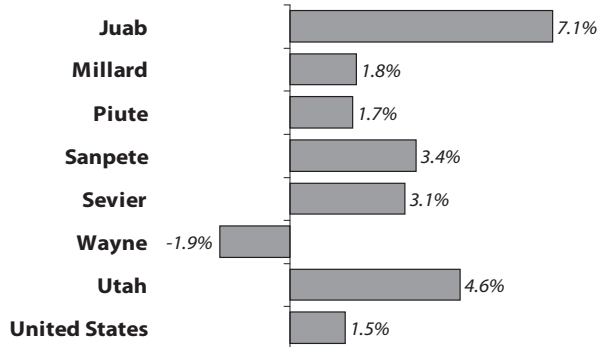
✧ Sanpete County officials are pushing for a new, \$12 million, 128-bed facility to replace their 44-bed building. *The Salt Lake Tribune*

✧ Oil production in Utah reached its highest level last year since 1998, largely because of an upsurge in activity in Sevier County. *The Salt Lake Tribune*

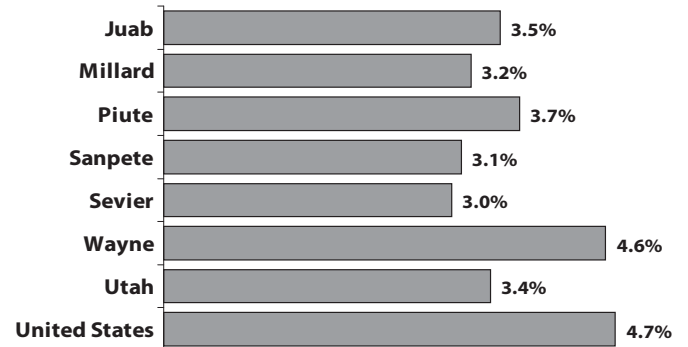
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**Change in Nonfarm Jobs
December 2004 to September 2005**



**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
March 2006**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

03-51C-0606